

Burglary, Auto Theft Hike City Crime Rate

Torrance Press-Herald

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REPORT ALARM . . . Rn. Chief Frank Tuttle of the Torrance Fire Department explains the operation of the city's new telephone fire alarm system to Press-Herald reporter Jerry Reynolds. The system, which includes 102 alarm boxes, will be activated tomorrow morning. Persons using the alarm box to report a fire need only lift the telephone receiver and wait for an operator to answer.

Auto Skids, Then Flips; Five Teenagers Injured

Fire Alarm Phones Go on Duty Monday

One of the most modern communications operator the location of the alarm box. Persons reporting a fire will be asked to give their location, the exact location of the fire — a car, a house, or other structure. The operator, using direct communications with the city's fire stations, will be able to dispatch the right equipment at once, according to Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

The system, first part of a planned installation of some 300 alarm boxes, employs direct telephone communications and some of the most modern electronic equipment now available. It was installed at a cost of \$33,000 and includes 102 alarm boxes located at primary intersections throughout the city. A new Fire Department communications center has been built at the main fire station as part of the system.

RESIDENTS using the alarm boxes to report fires need only open the door and lift the telephone receiver. Lights on the fire department switchboard will show the location of the alarm box. Persons reporting a fire will be asked to give their location, the exact location of the fire — a car, a house, or other structure. The operator, using direct communications with the city's fire stations, will be able to dispatch the right equipment at once, according to Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

THE NEW alarm system is not designed to replace the reporting of fires by private telephone, Chief Benner said. It will, however, provide a direct, free line to the fire department at any time of the day or night.

Benner also warned against tampering with the alarm boxes or false reporting of alarms. Such action, he explained, is a crime and violators will be prosecuted.

Communications equipment installed with the new system will provide direct radio, telephone, and public address system, communications with all fire stations in the city. In addition, a teletype system has been installed.

ALL CALLS reported from an alarm box will automatically be timed and recorded, Benner explained. Lifting the receiver in an alarm box automatically starts a tape recorder and a second machine records the date, time, and location of the report.

The new system was described as "virtually fool-proof" by Deputy Fire Chief Robert Lucas.

In addition to the initial installation costs, the city will pay some \$26,000 each year for maintenance of the system. The alarm system was installed by General and Pacific Telephone Cos. and will be maintained by the two utility firms.

INSTALLATION costs were sharply reduced by the Fire Department, Benner reported. Firemen assembled, painted, and put up the alarm boxes at the 102 intersections. Final installation was left to the two telephone companies.

Brochures describing the new system and giving complete information about its use are being distributed to the homes and businesses throughout the city, Benner said. Boy Scouts will distribute the brochures.

The second phase of the system, which the department hopes to install next year, will add about 100 new alarm boxes in areas near schools and other places where large numbers of people assemble. The third phase will add still another 100 alarm boxes, Benner added.

In addition to the advantages of direct communications and 24-hour use, the new system is expected to result in savings on fire insurance throughout the city. Completion of the system, and the construction of Station No. 5, to be located at Del Amo and Hawthorne boulevards, is expected to reduce the over-all insurance classification in the city from A-5 to A-4, Benner said.



OFFICE CHORES . . . Yvonne Daly, a senior at Torrance High School and one of 25 trainees in the Torrance Neighborhood Youth Corps, works in a school office as part of the training program. Students work with school district personnel in some two dozen jobs to learn occupational skills. The trainees work 15 hours each week during the school year, but may work 32 hours during the summer. (Story on A-5)

Injuries Said Not Serious

Five youths were injured early Friday when the car in which they were riding overturned on Torrance Boulevard near Bishop Montgomery High School.

Two of the youths, Joseph A. Rund, 16, of 514 S. Juanita Ave., Redondo Beach, and Barry McMullan, 15, of 5226 Lillian St., were admitted to Little Company of Mary Hospital. Police said Rund was driving the vehicle.

Three boys were treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital, then released. They were: Gary A. Chambers, 15, of 21617 Anza Ave.; Richard I. White, 14, of 5029 Lee St.; and John M. Rund, 14, brother of the driver.

TORRANCE police said young Rund lost control of his vehicle as he entered a curve on Torrance Boulevard. The youth attempted to regain control and the car turned around, then rolled over. Police blamed the accident, which occurred about 7 a.m., on excessive speed.

A second accident, which occurred at the same time, resulted in minor injuries to a Torrance woman.

Priscilla D. Rhyne, 23026 Cabrillo Ave., was driving west on Sepulveda Boulevard when her vehicle was struck by a car driven by Dianne M. Still of Van Nuys.



DISPATCH TRUCKS . . . Meanwhile, back at the fire station, Fireman George Bryer is ready to dispatch fire trucks to the scene of a fire. The new switchboard, in addition to providing facilities to answer the alarm boxes, provides direct communications to other fire stations in the city. Special equipment on the board automatically tape records the conversation and prints the date, item and exact location of the alarm box whenever the circuit is opened. (Press-Herald Photos)

UP 12 PER CENT Torrance Crime Rate Increases

Major crime in Torrance increased by some 12 per cent in 1965 — more than twice the national increase, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, in the bureau's 1965 Uniform Crime Reports, said Torrance had a crime index of 4,289 compared to an index of 3,835 in 1964. The crime index is computed on the number of serious crimes per 100,000 population.

Most significant increases were reported in crimes against property — burglary, larceny, and auto theft — according to Officer Don Morrison of the Torrance Police Department's Planning and Research Division.

MORRISON also said the index was "just an indication since many crimes are never reported to the police department." He noted the FBI report is based on figures supplied by local law enforcement agencies.

The 1965 figures show a total of 2,001 burglaries, 650 auto thefts, and 3,521 cases of larceny. That compares with 1,982 burglaries, 572 auto thefts, and 3,358 cases of larceny in 1964, according to the report.

Torrance reported two murders and eight cases of manslaughter in 1965. There were no murder or manslaughter cases in 1964.

DECREASES in forcible rape, from 22 to 18, and in robbery, from 107 to 91, were noted in the 1965 report.

Hit-Run Charged To Driver

A 19-year-old Torrance youth was charged with hit and run and drunk driving Friday night following a minor traffic accident in the 2100 block of Del Amo Boulevard.

The youth, Larry A. Azevedo, 2245 1/2 Del Amo Blvd., was placed under a citizen's arrest after Louie P. Perez, 52, of 2377 Del Amo Blvd., told police he would sign a complaint.

Perez told police he was driving west on Del Amo Boulevard when he was struck by the Azevedo vehicle. When Azevedo failed to stop, Perez said he turned his car around and followed the youth to Van Ness Avenue, stopped him, and persuaded the youth to return to his home.

In front of the Perez home, Azevedo apparently began to argue with Perez and police were called. Officers said they made several attempts to get the youth to cooperate and added that Azevedo's mother also asked the youth to cooperate.

When Azevedo refused, he was placed under citizen's arrest on the hit and run charge and taken to the Torrance Police Station. During questioning there, he was asked to submit to an intoxication test. Officers charged him with drunk driving after administering the test.

Azevedo also was charged with driving without a license.

Bicycle Tires Slashed While Youths Bowl

Two youths who rode their bicycles to a bowling alley Friday night had to walk home — pushing their bicycles.

Martin Brewer, 14, who gave no address, and Brian Barker, 12, of 1908 Cabrillo Ave., told police someone had slashed their bicycle tires about 9:30 p.m. Friday.

The bicycles had been parked outside a bowling alley near 220th Street and Western Avenue.

A second typewriter and a portable tape recorder were taken from a car parked at 2920 Columbia St. Friday afternoon.

Ronald G. Sheridan, 26, of Cypress, Calif., reported the theft. Also taken was a brief case containing a grant deed and other papers, Sheridan said.

Police said one of the car doors was unlocked. The tape recorder and typewriter were on the back seat of the car.

Thieves Now Watch Late, Late Show

Theft of three television sets — one of them a color set — from two North Torrance homes was reported Friday to Torrance police.

The color set and a small black-and-white set were taken from the home of Neil W. Tidwell, 44, at 18414 Purche Ave., police said. Tidwell said the two sets were worth \$600.

Police said the burglars used a brick to smash a kitchen window in the Tid-

well home. The burglary occurred between 11:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

The third television set, along with a typewriter, a stereo set, a clock radio, and an electric razor, were taken from Donald A. Wright, 17, of 4131 W. Artesia Blvd.

Wright, who lives at the Artesia Boulevard address with his mother, said the items were worth about \$350. The thieves pried open a rear window sometime Friday afternoon, police said.

Budget Hearing Due . . .

Members of the Torrance Board of Education will convene tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. for a public hearing on the 1966-67 school budget. Final action is expected on the \$20.1 million plan for financing school operations next year. The session will be held at the board offices, 2335 Plaza Del Amo.

Japanese Visitors Due . . .

Twenty-one home economists from Japan will tour the facilities of the home economics department at El Camino College Monday during a one-day visit to Los Angeles. Mrs. Hazel Kuehn, instructor in home economics at the college, will greet the visitors. Host for the group is Mrs. John Malbrain of San Pedro.

Lomita Man Poisoned . . .

Harold Allen Davis, 26, of Lomita, who was found unconscious in his vehicle at Cabrillo and El Prado Sunday, died Thursday at Harbor General Hospital. Davis was hospitalized after he was discovered in the downtown area. His death was reported to be the result of self-administered poison.